

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE**



**CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC SECURITY IN  
ZIMBABWE.. CASE OF DAPP HOPE HUMANA BINDURA**

**BY**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE  
EDUCATION**

**IN PARTIAL FUFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE  
IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE STUDIES**

# **CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE.CASE STUDY OF DAPP HOPE HUMANA BINDURA**

## **ABSTRACT**

*The study sought to investigate the role of civil societies in attaining community economic security. The objectives of the study were to investigate the role of civil societies in maintaining economic security, to identify some of barriers that civil societies face in addressing issues related to economic security and to recommend strategies that ensure the effective participation of civil societies in issues related to economic security. Qualitative method was employed to gather in the depth of the data.. The human security framework defines economic security as the ability of individuals to access social services, as well as the ability to participate in economic activities and to make choices that affect one's well-being. It is also the ability of individuals, households, and communities to meet their basic economic needs and maintain a decent standard of living. The safety net theory focuses on the provision of a supportive background to protect individuals and communities from the effects of adverse economic hardships. Zimbabwe has one of the highest poverty rates in Africa, with an estimated 72% of the population living below the poverty line. Zimbabwe's unemployment rate is estimated to be around 90%, with many people struggling to find formal employment. The study was conducted using the case study research design. It was conducted in Bindura District, Mashonaland Central Zimbabwe with DAPP Hope Bindura as the focus of the study. A sample of 20 respondents was selected. The respondents included employees and management from DAPP Hope Bindura, academics and people that have received assistance from the organization. The findings show that NGOS give humanitarian assistance to individuals in need. Civil society groups work to address social concerns such as poverty. NGOs act as advocates in relation to economic security. The findings also show that there are various challenges that are being encountered by civil society groups. One recurring challenge among various participants is how NGOs face severe resource shortages to social problems related to economic security. The findings show that there is a need for strict policies to be adjusted so that NGOs can operate more effectively. There is need for an enabling environment for these organizations. There is also a need for enhanced collaboration among stakeholders.*

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**DECLARATION FORM**

I Shantel Thabani Chipunza, do solemnly declare that this research study herein, is my own work and has not been copied from any source without the acknowledgement of the source.

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Students signature

Date: .....

SUPERVISORS NAME:

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Chairpersons name

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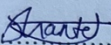
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**Declaration**

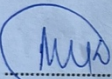
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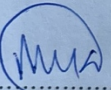
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**DEDICATION**

This research is dedicated to my father Chrispen Chipunza.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my supervisor Dr. C. Muchemwa for his mentorship and assistance during my studies. I also would like to thank my family and friends for their assistance during my studies.

I would like to give my special thanks to Chipo Nyagura who has been a friend and a pillar. I also want to thank Zuriel Chipunza, Shedean Lomati and Aunty Becky from DAPP Hope Bindura.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CSOs      CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONs

DAPP      DEVELOPMENT AID FROM PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

NGO.      NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

SADC.      SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT CO

UNDP.      UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPING PROGRAMME

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **: INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Civil society organizations play a pivotal role in global economic security. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have the ability to advocate for policies that promote economic stability and security (World Bank, 2022). They can influence governments and international organizations to adopt measures that protect against financial crises, promote fair trade practices, and ensure sustainable economic development (World Bank, 2022). They act as lobby groups to ensure certain economic interests are met. In developed countries, civil society organizations plays a crucial role in disseminating information about economic issues to the public. By raising awareness and providing education on economic policies, trade agreements, and financial literacy (Petrica, 2020). This is a key role because it helps people to make better decisions in relation to finances. These efforts also encourage governments to adhere to policies that promote economic security. In the global context, CSOs act as a watchdog, monitoring economic policies and practices to ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical behaviour by the state (Petrica, 2020). CSOs can expose corruption, fraud, and other malfeasance in both public and private sectors, contributing to a more secure economic environment (Petrica, 2020). They play a role in ensure that the interests and the rights of the people are protected.

In the context of Africa, civil society organizations have been known to play a pivotal role in economic development. They provide social safety nets and provide humanitarian assistance during times of economic crisis or emergency (Kabonga, 2021). They also offer food aid, cash transfers, healthcare services, and support networks to vulnerable populations, ensuring their basic needs are met and protecting them from economic shocks (Kabonga, 2021). This is a key role especially for developing countries on the African continent. Nongovernmental organizations NGOs often implement programs aimed at poverty alleviation and improving livelihoods (Kabonga, 2021). These programs focus on income generation, microfinance initiatives, agricultural development, and entrepreneurship training. This is much needed help

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especially in countries that require humanitarian assistance (Kabonga, 2021). In developing countries, some people still struggle to meet their daily needs. CSOs spearhead development needs that are aimed at achieving economic sustainability for communities. On a regional level, SADC countries have also made collaborative frameworks to help them cooperate better with civil society groups. The regional body comprises of 16 member states in Southern Africa. These countries collaborate with civil society groups at a regional level in a way that aims to address some of the economic challenges that the region faces (World Bank, 2022).

There are various CSOs that are operational in Zimbabwe. As a developing country that is facing multiple socioeconomic challenges, CSOs are a much needed development partner for Zimbabwe. In that regard, there is a need to understand the extent to which the assistance that is provided by CSOs has been effective in Zimbabwe. The World Bank (2022) stipulates that some of the key challenges that Zimbabwe is facing include high poverty rates, high unemployment, hyperinflation and liquidity crisis. This makes the situation severe especially for vulnerable communities. The government also does not have the capacity and the resources to provide assistance to its populace. Therefore, it relies on development partners such as CSOs. This garners interest to investigate the role that these organizations play in a local context. Bindura has also been subject to the macroeconomic forces that are prevalent in Zimbabwe. It is a mining town that is located in Mashonaland Central Province. Various civil society groups are operational in Bindura. This includes groups that advocate for the rights, economic empowerment and women's rights. There is need to analyse the groups in relation to how they promote economic security in the communities.

Civil Society Organizations, are entities that operate independently of the government and the private sector, working towards the betterment of society. Kabonga (2021) defines CSOs as organizations that are formed by individuals or groups of citizens who come together voluntarily to address specific social, economic, or environmental issues and promote the interests and well-being of communities. CSOs encompass a wide range of organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), advocacy groups, professional associations, faith-based organizations, and grassroots movements (Kabonga, 2021). They operate at different levels, from local to national and

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international, and work across various sectors such as human rights, social justice, education, healthcare, environmental conservation and poverty alleviation (World Bank, 2022).

According to UNDP (1994) the concept of economic security refers to the condition of individuals, households, or communities having stable and reliable access to essential economic resources and opportunities. These allow them to meet their basic needs, withstand financial shocks, and pursue long-term well-being (UNDP, 1994). It encompasses a range of dimensions, including income stability, employment opportunities, social safety nets, access to financial services, and protection against risks and vulnerabilities (UNDP, 1994). On the point of social safety nets, one can interpret it as an insurance against poverty. Gukurume and Mhlanga (2019) argue that economic security is critical for promoting sustainable economic development, reducing poverty, and improving the overall well-being of citizens. The concept of economic security is a part of the human security framework that was proposed by the UNDP in 1994. Other aspects of human security include personal, political, health, environmental, community and food security (UNDP, 1994).

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

There are various socioeconomic challenges in Zimbabwe. , the country is battling with various economic challenges that are hindering economic development and progress. The government has not been able to provide economic relief to its citizens. There is also low investor confidence in the country. This compels the government to rely on various development partners to achieve its goals. Given the high poverty levels in Zimbabwe, there are concerns about human dignity and the ability of communities to make ends meet in a sustainable way (World Bank, 2022). The situation is also more severe for marginalized communities such as people living with HIV, people with disabilities and women (World Bank, 2022). That is because these groups are more vulnerable to economic shocks because they are not able to access certain economic opportunities in an equitable manner. This brings interest to investigate how CSOs level the playing field in a way that guarantees economic security for all. It also requires one to examine the effectiveness of the role that these organizations are playing.

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## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The study aims to investigate the role that is played by civil society organizations in promoting economic security in Bindura.

## **1.4 Research Objectives**

1. To investigate the role of civil societies in maintaining economic security.
2. To identify some of barriers that civil societies face in addressing issues related to economic security.
3. To recommend strategies that ensure the effective participation of civil societies in issues related to economic security.

## **1.5 Research Questions**

1. What is the role of civil society organizations in economic security?
2. What are some of the barriers that civil societies face in helping communities to achieve economic security?
3. How can civil societies enhance their role in a way that promotes economic security?

## **1.6 Assumptions of the Study**

The study assumes that civil society organizations help improve economic security.

The study also assumes that there is economic insecurity in Zimbabwe.

## **1.7 Significance of the Study**

The study will help recommend policies that allow better collaboration with civil societies. For the academic community, the study will provide new insight regarding how civil society organizations help with economic security. For civil DAPP , the study will help shed light on socioeconomic issues that need intervention.

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## **1.8 Limitations of the Study**

The research did not focus much on the socioeconomic challenges facing Zimbabwe. It focused on how civil society organizations help alleviate these challenges. The main focus of the study was how these organizations help improve economic security.

## **1.9 Delimitations of the Study**

The study was conducted in Bindura District, Mashonaland Central Zimbabwe. DAPP Hope Bindura was the civil society organization that was being studied.

## **1.10 Definition of Terms**

Civil Society Organizations - Kabonga (2021) defines CSOs as organizations that are formed by individuals or groups of citizens who come together voluntarily to address specific social, economic, or environmental issues and promote the interests and well-being of communities.

Economic Development – World Bank (2022) refers to economic development as the sustained, long-term growth and improvement of a region's economy, with the goal of increasing the overall standard of living and well-being of its residents.

Economic Security - UNDP (1994) defines the concept of economic as the condition of individuals, households, or communities having stable and reliable access to essential economic resources and opportunities.

Non-governmental organization - a non-governmental organization is a private, non-profit organization that operates independently from government entities (World Bank, 2022). NGOs are typically driven by a specific mission or goal, often related to addressing social, environmental, or humanitarian issues (World Bank, 2022).



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## **1.11Chapter Outline**

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the study. It statement of the problem and objectives of the study. It also gives a context and background on the issues that will be discussed in the study.

Chapter 2 focuses on the literature review and theoretical framework. There are various theories and theoretical frameworks that will be used in the study. The chapter will also focus on what was discussed before.

Chapter 3 gives a layout of the methodology that was used in the study. The study was conducted as a case study. The focus of the study was DAPP Hope Bindura.

Chapter 4 shares the findings of the study. The findings will also be discussed and analysed. Various themes will be unpacked.

Chapter 5 shares concluding remarks of the study. It also gives recommendations as well as recommendations for further study.

## **CHAPTER TWO: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This section shall provide a review of the related literature as well as the theoretical framework. The human security framework was used in explain the study. This framework asserts that the modern world has become complex and there are now various threats towards human security. This includes health, political, economic and environmental security among others. Economic security will be explained in relation to this framework. The safety net theory was also used to explain economic security. This theory assumes that people require a safety net which helps them overcome challenges that they face in their day-to-day lives. The relationship between civil society organizations and vulnerable communities will be explained using these concepts. In Zimbabwe, there are various socioeconomic challenges that cause economic insecurity in communities and among individuals. Some of these challenges include hyperinflation and a

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very high unemployment rate. This means that civil society organizations have a larger burden because there are many people that are in need of assistance. There are also people that are part of vulnerable communities. This includes people living with HIV or disabilities. They have a tougher situation because they are not able to access equal opportunities in a socioeconomic environment that already tough. This raises questions about the effectiveness of civil society organizations in addressing some of these challenges. These are some of the issues that will be discussed in this section.

### **2.1 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

#### **2.1.1 Human Security Concept**

Menon (2015) defines the human security framework as a comprehensive approach that goes beyond traditional notions of security, such as military preparedness. Menon (2015) recognizes how the framework emphasizes on the safety and dwell-being of individuals. Threats to human security come from various sources including poverty, inequality, armed conflicts, environmental degradation, and violations of human rights (UNDP, 1994). In that regard, the framework aims to protect individuals from threats that may undermine their safety, dignity, and ability to lead productive lives (UNDP, 2019). It also seeks to address the root causes of vulnerabilities. From this perspective, one can get an idea that the human security framework is a comprehensive approach. It recognizes that in the contemporary world, threats to human security go beyond just armed conflict (Menon, 2015). Human security is also defined in terms of freedom from want and freedom from fear (Menon, 2015). With regards to freedom from want, the human security concept focuses on dealing with the underlying causes of poverty, inequality, and lack of basic necessities (UNDP, 1994). In that regard, the study aims to unpack the extent to which nongovernmental organizations help communities in dealing with economic challenges. The concept also emphasizes on the need to provide individuals with access to food, water, shelter, healthcare, education, and other basic necessities that allow them to make a decent living. According to the UNDP (1994) there are 7 categories of human security that need to be addressed. These are economic, political, personal, environmental, community, food and health security. Economic security is a subset of the human security framework. As cited earlier in the study, economic security refers to the ability of individuals,

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households, and communities to meet their basic economic needs and maintain a decent standard of living (UNDP, 2019). In that regard, the study aims to assess the extent to which civil society groups help communities to achieve these objectives. Economic security also covers a wide range of factors such as access to employment, income, health care and education (Menon, 2015). It also encompasses the ability of individuals to access social services, as well as the ability to participate in economic activities and to make choices that affect one's well-being (UNDP, 1994). From the above, the assumption is that economic security is the ability of individuals to escape vulnerability in order to make a good living.

### **2.1.2 Safety Net Theory**

The safety net theory or social safety net theory is one of the popular theories that are used to explain how individuals cooperate with organizations or other individuals to achieve economic prosperity. According to Tucker (2018) the theory focuses on the provision of a supportive background to protect individuals and communities from the effects of adverse economic hardships. The theory recognizes that societal well-being depends on ensuring that everyone has access to a certain level of economic security and basic necessities (Anheier, 2014). The theory aims to explain how a social safety net helps people to be insured from various forms of economic vulnerability. This raises the fundamental questions with regards to how civil society groups can be viewed as social safety nets. The study aims to explore the effectiveness of these organizations in providing social safety nets. Tucker (2018) also highlights how the safety net theory aims to prevent individuals from falling into poverty or extreme vulnerability while also assisting those who are already experiencing economic challenges. It emphasizes on a humanitarian approach. According to Deeming (2013) the theory advocates for the creation of a system of social protection that cushions individuals from the negative impacts of economic shocks. It also explains how individuals need to be protected from debilitating challenges such as unemployment, illness, and other unforeseen circumstances (Deeming, 2013). The social safety net theory proposes that civil society groups act as a crucial safety net for communities because they provide support as well as resources that may not be adequately addressed by government or economic system (Anheier, 2014). In the global context, these groups play a vital role in helping communities to meet their basic needs (Anheier, 2014). In

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that regard, there is a need to understand the role that is played by civil society groups to address economic challenges in the context of Zimbabwe.

Deeming (2013) asserts that civil society organizations often fill gaps in social services by providing support to vulnerable groups. Deeming (2013) recognizes how they offer various services such as food banks, housing support, healthcare services, counselling, and educational programs. These initiatives help alleviate social and economic hardships, ensuring that community members have access to essential resources and support systems. The safety net theory also recognizes how nongovernmental organizations work to empower communities by fostering local development initiatives (Anheier, 2014). This can include various activities such as income-generating projects or loan schemes. Anheier (2014) shares examples of how nongovernmental organizations facilitate community-led projects, capacity-building programs, and skill development workshops that empower individuals. Tucker (2018) asserts that all these initiatives are aimed at promoting individuals to take charge of their own well-being and contribute to the betterment of their communities. Tucker (2018) also posits that civil society groups enhance community resilience and social cohesion by strengthening local networks and fostering self-reliance. This theory is helpful in explaining about economic security because it explains the relationship that civil society groups have with individuals in communities. Civil society groups often rely on volunteers who contribute their time, skills, and resources to support community initiatives (Deeming, 2013). Volunteer programs create opportunities for individuals to engage actively in community service, fostering a sense of belonging and collective responsibility (Deeming, 2013). These social support networks not only provide tangible assistance but also foster social connections, combat isolation, and promote a sense of community solidarity (Deeming, 2013). These processes are seen to be essential for the economic wellbeing of individuals.

### **2.2 Civil Society Groups**

It is imperative in the study to define civil society groups. It is also essential to clarify on how their initiatives are aimed at ensuring economic security. Davis (2018) defines civil society groups as organizations or individuals that work towards the common good and promote social,

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economic, and political change through non-violent means. Davis (2018) notes that these groups operate outside of the government and market, and are often driven by a desire to address social and environmental issues. These groups identify gaps and work on issues that are not being adequately addressed by the state or private sector. According to Finn (2018) examples of civil society groups include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), grassroots movements, advocacy groups, and charities. Finn (2018) acknowledges that civil society groups operate in various spheres, including social, cultural, environmental, human rights, and development issues. They play a crucial role in fostering civic engagement, promoting social justice, and advocating for the rights and well-being of marginalized groups (Davis, 2018). These groups often work at the grassroots level, engaging with local communities and implementing initiatives to address social challenges (Davis, 2018).

Civil society groups operate independently of government control or direct influence. This independence allows them to work autonomously to try and address the social ills that exist (Finn, 2018). Nongovernmental organization fall under the category of civil society groups. According to Keane (2019) NGOs are private, non-profit organizations that operate independently of any government, although it may receive funding from governments or other sources. They have a mandate to address certain issues depending on their programming. For example, NGOs can work as advocacy groups. In this role, they advocate for policy changes, greater public awareness, or other forms of support for their cause (Keane, 2019). They can also lobby for governments to make changes that are beneficial for people. NGOs can also work as organizations that offer humanitarian assistance. In this role, they provide assistance to communities that are ravished by various challenges. Keane (2019) supports this viewpoint and asserts that NGOs may provide emergency relief and support to communities affected by natural disasters, conflicts, or other crises. From the above, the main assumption is that civil society groups exist to address social evils whether they are economic, social or environmental in nature.

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### **2.3 Vulnerable Groups**

In society, vulnerable groups are usually the target for civil society organizations. For example, DAPP Hope Humana Bindura places a larger responsibility on helping people living with HIV, women or people with disabilities. The World Bank (2020) defines vulnerable communities as populations that are at a higher risk of experiencing negative effects of environmental, social or economic stressors. World Bank (2020) notes that these vulnerabilities are exacerbated due to various factors such as socioeconomic status, ethnicity, age, gender, or religion among other factors. Keane (2019) asserts that these communities usually have limited access to resources, social support, and opportunities for education, employment, and healthcare. As an example, World Bank (2020) notes how people with disabilities face barriers to accessing resources, services, and opportunities due to their disabilities. In that regard, the study aims to understand how NGOs help to try and address these issues. Another group of vulnerable people include people living on low income or people that stay in rural areas. These groups usually do not have adequate social and structural safety nets to help them navigate some of the challenges that they face. It is also noteworthy that such groups are more vulnerable in developing countries such as Zimbabwe because of high poverty levels and poor economic performance. The list of vulnerable groups also includes people living with HIV. UNDP (2019) notes that despite the progress that is made in addressing HIV/AIDS, people living with the disease continue to face stigma and discrimination. UNDP (2019) further notes that this stigmatization often leads to social isolation, reduced access to healthcare, and decreased quality of life. In relation to the study, these vulnerabilities negatively affect the economic security of communities.

### **2.4 Social and economic Environment in Zimbabwe**

It is also noteworthy to mention how civil society groups are operating in a country that has been plagued by economic and social challenges for decades. The study aims to investigate how these existential factors influence the work that is done by civil society groups. There is also need to assess the capability of these organizations to address these needs. For example, Mlambo (2020) notes how Zimbabwe has one of the highest poverty rates in Africa, with an estimated 72% of the population living below the poverty line. Mlambo (2020) highlights that

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the country also faces high levels of income inequality, with the wealthiest 10% of the population hold 30% of the country's wealth. Furthermore, Zimbabwe's unemployment rate is estimated to be around 90%, with many people struggling to find formal employment (Mlambo, 2020). Ncube (2020) notes that these trends have led to the overexpansion of the informal sector. Many people engage in subsistence farming, street vending, and other informal activities. This is because there are limited employment opportunities within the economy. These factors mean that civil society groups have a larger target market as most people in the country are living in conditions which are less than optimum. The country also has severe economic instability. Mlambo (2020) notes that the local economy has faced significant challenges, including hyperinflation, currency fluctuations, and a lack of foreign investment. These factors contribute towards the negative economic security of communities. The situation in Zimbabwe is exacerbated by the political tensions that exist especially during election periods (Ncube, 2020). This concoction of problems has resulted in majority of Zimbabweans living in economic uncertainty. Majority of the people live below the poverty datum line. This is the highlight of the environment that civil society groups operate in. It also shows that they have urgent issues that need to be addressed. While civil society groups play an important role, there have been concerns about how overreliance on civil society leads to dependence and failure to take initiative. Keane (2019) concurs with the point that the operations of NGOs in developing countries sometimes lead to overdependence on aid. It is suggested that NGOs should provide aid in a way that allows people to independently earn an income from themselves. This would help reduce the misuse of aid.

### **2.5 Barriers Faced by Civil Societies**

As cited earlier, civil society groups sometimes face challenges in addressing issues in society. In that regard, it is helpful to highlight some of the challenges that they face in order to understand the context that they operate in.

#### **2.5.1 Incapacitation**

In literature, the main challenge that is cited is how civil society organizations sometimes do not have adequate resources to address social problems. Abiddin (2022) highlights that NGOs

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rely heavily on donations and grants from governments, foundations, and private donors. However, these funds are often limited, unpredictable, and may not cover the full scope of the NGO's work (Abiddin, 2022). Kabonga (2023) asserts that in the context of Zimbabwe, the challenge is even larger because the country is facing economic challenges. Therefore, there are more people who are vulnerable and in need of humanitarian or social assistance. The lack of resources is also seen by how NGOS do not have adequate infrastructure (Kabonga, 2023). Many NGOs lack the necessary infrastructure, such as offices, equipment, and technology, to effectively implement their programs and services (Abiddin, 2022). This point is important because such resources are needed for the conduction of duties. In comparison, when the state wants to implement development programs, it usually has a wide range of resources. That is why states have the capacity to embark on large scale projects that address social issues on a national level (Abiddin, 2022). Sometimes NGOs are limited to small-scale projects in proportion to the availability of their resources. The situation can also be exacerbated by how NGOs may have limited fundraising capacity (Abiddin, 2022). This limits their ability to secure funding from diverse sources. This lack of capacity can be because of policy restrictions or a lack of outreach. These challenges have been cited to affect the performance of civil society organizations.

### **2.5.2 Lack of an Enabling Environment**

Another major issue that has emerged is how CSOs need an enabling environment in order for them to conduct their operations smoothly. Kabonga (2023) asserts that in Zimbabwe, there has been some friction between NGOs and the government. The government is especially concerned about NGOs which make efforts to comment about political issues (Kabonga, 2023). This distrust means that the government does not give full capacity even to organizations that want to address genuine socioeconomic challenges. Nyandoro (2022) notes that the government has been known to introduce policies and NGO bills that are strict about how organizations can register, source funding and conduct their operations. Nyandoro (2022) also offers the diagnosis that authoritarian regimes are concerned about such organizations gaining much leeway in society because they may end up shedding light on their policy and human rights failures. During election years, the Zimbabwean government usually introduces stricter



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policies for NGOs to operate in. This was done in 2023. The Zimbabwean government has also introduced legislation that imposes stringent regulations on NGOs, making it difficult for them to operate independently. For example, the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) and the Non-Governmental Organizations Act have been criticized for their potential to curtail freedom of expression, assembly, and association (Nyandoro, 2022). It is the aim of the government to curtail the activities of NGOs. These laws have been used to target and restrict the activities of NGOs critical of the government. As NGOs act as advocacy groups, they represent the voices of marginalized people (Kabonga, 2023). This is at loggerheads with some governments that do not want these organizations commenting about political issues.

### **2.6 Suggested Solutions**

Some solutions have been suggested to help address some of the barriers that NGOs face. Abiddin (2022) asserts that a supportive legal framework that recognizes and protects the rights of NGOs is essential for their operation. Abiddin (2022) notes that this includes laws that govern their registration, tax status, and ability to receive funding. In that regard, the study aims shed light on the best environment that can be created for civil societies to operate in Zimbabwe. Saleh et al. (2022) asserts that NGOs require access to resources such as funding, technology, and expertise to carry out their programs. Saleh et al. (2022) further notes that governments, donors, and private sector organizations can provide these resources. In that regard, capacity building measures are required to ensure that they get access to the resources that they need. NGOs need capacity building programs to enhance their skills, knowledge, and expertise (Saleh et al, 2022). This includes training, mentorship, and technical assistance to improve their operations, management, and program delivery (Saleh et al, 2022). NGOs need the freedom to associate with other organizations, community groups, and individuals to carry out their work (Saleh et al, 2022). This includes the ability to form partnerships, collaborate on projects, and engage in advocacy efforts. Abiddin (2022) asserts that collaboration with government agencies, local authorities, and other stakeholders is crucial for NGOs to achieve their goals. NGOs can work with governments to provide services, implement policies, and advocate for change.

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### **2.7 Chapter Summary**

In summary, civil society groups are organizations that are run with the mandate of addressing social evils. In Zimbabwe's context, they are operating under severe conditions because of the adverse socioeconomic challenges that exist. These conditions are even more severe for people who are part of vulnerable communities. These vulnerabilities are caused by various factors such as low income, disabilities or sickness. The safety net theory has been used to explain the study. This theory assumes that there should be frameworks to help people with social, environmental or economic stressors. Economic security can be cited as freedom from want and poverty. The study aims to understand the role that is played by civil society organizations in addressing these challenges. There are various barriers against how civil society organizations face in addressing social challenges. That includes the lack of enabling environment and inadequate resources. In that regard, there is need for an enabling environment that allows them to operate at their best capacity.

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## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This section shares an overview of the methodology and data collection tools that were used in conducting the study. The researcher identified themes from the research questions and objectives. The objectives of the study were to investigate the role of civil societies in maintaining economic security, to identify some of barriers that civil societies face in addressing issues related to economic security and to recommend strategies that ensure the effective participation of civil societies in issues related to economic security. In that regard, the study was conducted as a case study in Bindura District, Mashonaland Central Zimbabwe. DAPP Hope Bindura was the focus of the study. The researcher used both questionnaires and in-depth interviews to collect data from respondents.

### **3.1 Research Design**

The research was conducted using the case study research design. Ahmad et al. (2019) asserts that research design in social sciences is a systematic process for collecting and analyzing data to answer research questions. Ahmad et al. (2019) notes that it involves the selection of appropriate methods and techniques for data collection, as well as the development of a plan for analyzing the data. The goal of research design is to ensure that the research is conducted in a valid and reliable manner, and that the results are accurate and meaningful. According to Ahmad et al. (2019) a case study research design is a qualitative research method that involves the detailed study of a single case, such as an individual, a group, or an organization. The goal of a case study is to gain a deep understanding of the case and to generate insights that can be applied to other similar cases (Ahmad et al, 2019). Case study research designs allow researchers to gain a deep understanding of a single case (Ahmad et al, 2019). This is because the researcher can spend a significant amount of time studying the case, and can collect data from a variety of sources.

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## **3.2 Research Design**

Alharahsheh and Pius (2020) defines a research paradigm as a set of beliefs and assumptions about the nature of reality, the purpose of research, and the methods that are appropriate for conducting research. IT can also be defined as the guiding philosophy of the study. In the context of the research, the researcher used the interpretive paradigm. Alharahsheh and Pius (2020) share that interpretivism is a research paradigm that assumes that the world is subjective and can only be understood through the interpretations of the people who experience it. Alharahsheh and Pius (2020) note that interpretivist researchers believe that the goal of research is to understand the meanings that people attach to their experiences. These meanings can be used to understand and explain human behavior. This paradigm was used because the researcher aimed to use qualitative research methods.

## **3.3 Research Approach**

The researcher used qualitative research methods in conducting the research. According to Allan (2020) qualitative research methods are a type of research method that involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data. This type of data can include text, images, and audio recordings (Allan, 2020). Qualitative research methods are often used to study social phenomena, such as human behavior, culture, and society. Allan (2020) further notes that qualitative research methods can provide rich and detailed insights into social phenomena. This is because qualitative research methods allow researchers to collect data that is not easily captured by quantitative methods, such as emotions, experiences, and beliefs (Rose & Johnson, 2020). Qualitative research methods are flexible, and can be adapted to a variety of research questions. This is because qualitative research methods do not require researchers to follow a strict set of rules or procedures.

## **3.4 Population and Sampling**

### **3.4.1 Population**

In a study, the population refers to the entire group of individuals or objects that the researcher is interested in studying (Rose & Johnson, 2020). The population is the complete set of all

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possible observations that could be made (Rose & Johnson, 2020). The population of the study comprises of all the civil society groups that are based in Bindura.

### **3.4.2 Sampling**

According to Andrade (2021) sampling is the process of selecting a subset of the population to participate in a research study. The goal of sampling is to obtain a sample that is representative of the population so that the results of the study can be generalized to the population (Andrade, 2021). Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling method in which the researcher selects participants based on their specific characteristics or experiences (Andrade, 2021). This type of sampling is often used when the researcher is interested in studying a particular group of people or a specific phenomenon (Andrade, 2021). As the research is focused on civil society work, the study collected data from stakeholders related to civil society work. This includes employees and management from DAPP Hope Bindura, academics and people that have received assistance from the organization. These are the primary sources of data. A sample of 20 respondents was be selected.

### **3.5 Data Collection Instruments**

#### **3.5.1 Interviews**

The researcher used in-depth interviews to collect data from respondents. Allan (2020) defines in-depth interviews as qualitative research methods that involve conducting intensive interviews with a small number of participants. Allan (2020) asserts that the goal of in-depth interviews is to gain a deep understanding of the participants' perspectives and experiences. In-depth interviews are conducted one-on-one, and they can last for several hours (Allan, 2020). The interviewer asked the participant a series of open-ended questions. The participants were be encouraged to talk about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in detail. In-depth interviews can be a valuable tool for researchers who are interested in studying a particular topic in depth (Andrade, 2021). This method allows researchers to gain a rich understanding of the participants' perspectives and experinces (Andrade, 2021). It can help to uncover insights that would not be possible to obtain through other research methods. In-depth interviews can

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provide researchers with rich and detailed data about the participants' perspectives and experiences. This data can be used to generate insights and theories about the research topic.

### **3.6 Data Analysis Plan**

Qualitative data analysis was be used for sifting through the data. Qualitative data analysis allows researchers to explore the meanings and experiences of people in their own words (Rose & Johnson, 2020). This can provide a much richer understanding of social phenomena than quantitative methods. The researcher will also use graphs, charts and tables to illustrate some of the ideas that are presented in the findings. The researcher also used the literature and theories to analyse some of the ideas that were shared by respondents.

### **3.7 Validity and Reliability**

Rose and Johnson (2020) define validity in research refers to the extent to which a research study accurately measures what it is intended to measure. In order to ensure validity, the researcher will use various data collection methods. The researcher will also use a rigorous data analysis process. This process is based on the themes in the study. Rose and Johnson (2020) define reliability in research refers to the extent to which a research study can be replicated and produce the same results. In order to ensure reliability, the researcher will document the research process in detail so that other researchers can replicate the study.

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

The research was conducted using appropriate research procedures. This includes attaining a permission letter from the university before collecting data. The researcher ensured anonymity and confidentiality of respondents. Furthermore, the researcher solicited informed consent from the respondents. The researcher will also ensure that there is no plagiarism and unethical practices while conducting the research.

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### **3.9 Summary**

The research will be conducted as a case study. The focus of the study is DAPP Hope Bindura as a civil society group. The study uses the interpretive paradigm. The researcher also used qualitative research methods. In addition, the researcher used in-depth interviews and questionnaires. Qualitative data analysis was used to interpret and sift the findings. The next section shall provide an analysis of the findings.

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## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

### **4.0 Introduction**

.Data was collected from 20 respondents. This comprised of academics, civil society employees, beneficiaries and policymakers related to civil society work. In-depth interviews were used to collect data and the findings will be presented below. The findings highlighted various issues that will be discussed and analysed in detail. The interviews first explored how respondents define the concept of economic security. Several themes emerged that linked it to having a stable livelihood and access to social safety nets. International literature concurs that economic security involves freedom from poverty and the ability to cope with hardships. The discussion then turned to examining the various ways in which civil society organizations, commonly known as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), contribute towards community economic security. Respondents highlighted how NGOs provide humanitarian assistance during crises as well as longer-term support through livelihood projects, advocacy efforts and skills training initiatives. Challenges facing NGOs in carrying out this important work were also investigated. Recurring issues cited included limited funding availability as well as restrictive policies that hinder operational effectiveness. Scholars have documented similar resource constraints confronting the non-profit sector. Potential solutions to address the challenges were explored based on stakeholder perspectives. Adjusting policies to create an enabling environment and enhancing collaboration between actors were among the recommendations put forth.

### **4.1 Response Rate**

<b>Response Rate</b>	
<b>Target Respondents</b>	20
<b>Actual Respondents</b>	20
<b>Response Rate</b>	100%

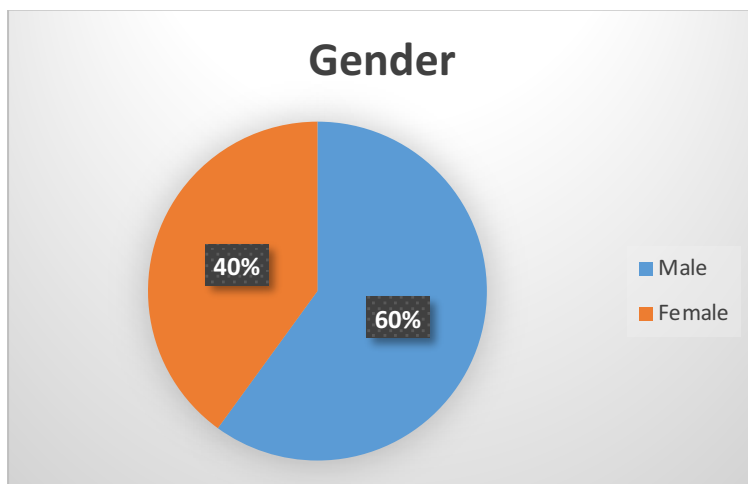
The response rate to the interviews was 100%.



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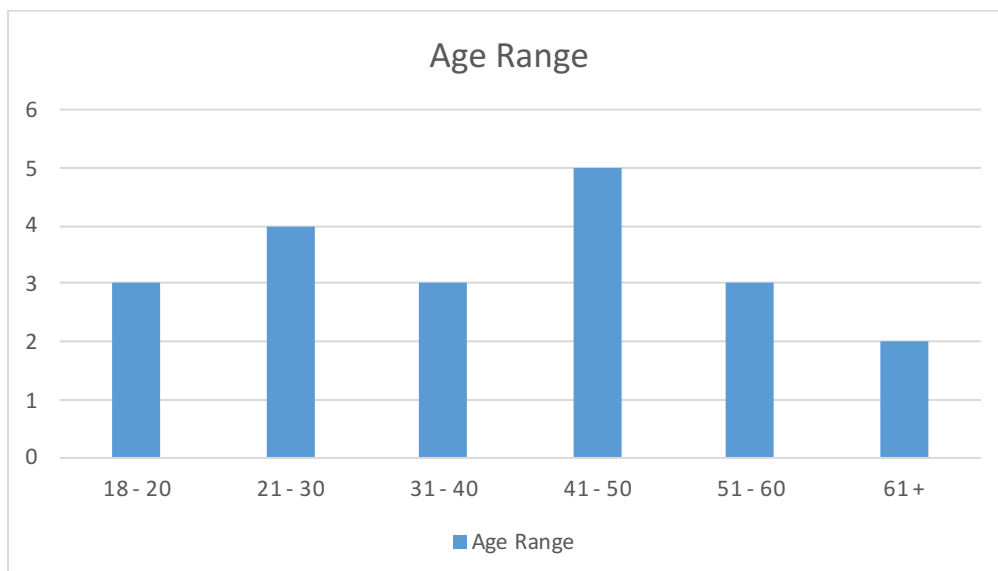
## 4.2 Demographic Information of Respondents

### 4.2.1 Gender



15 of the respondents were male while 5 of them were female.

### 4.2.2 Age

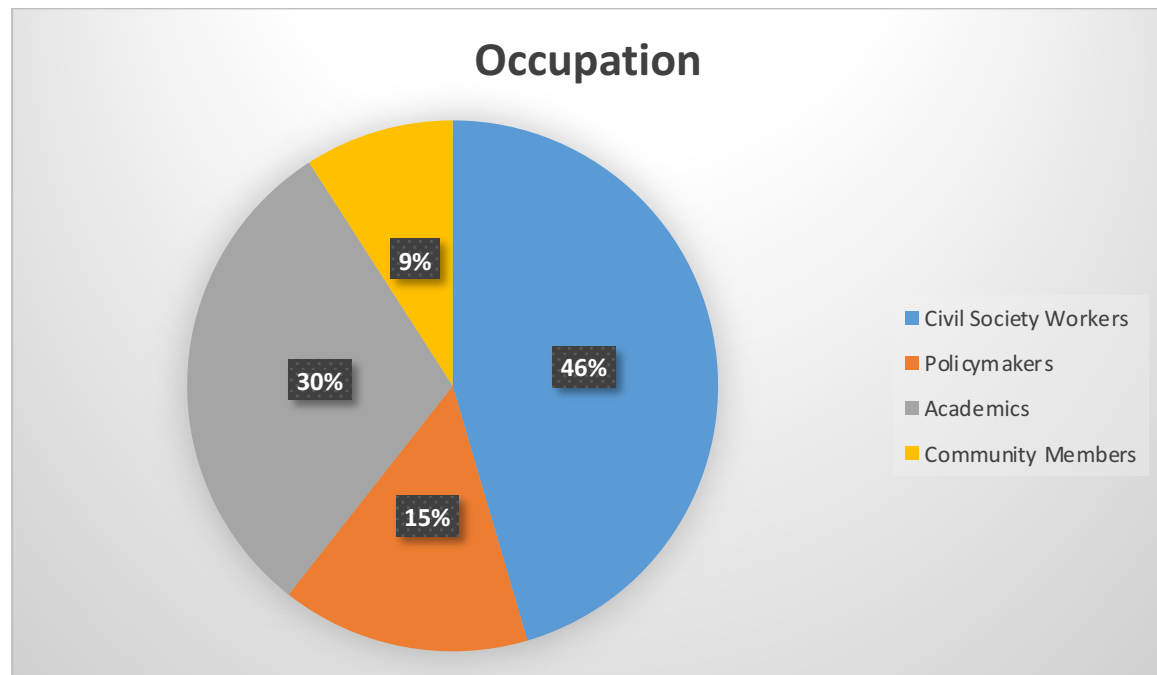


3 of the respondents were in the age range of 18 – 20. 4 participants were in the age range of 21 to 30. 3 respondents were in the age range of 31 – 40. The largest age group was respondents

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in the age range of 41 to 50 which were 5. Participants in the age range of 51 – 60 were 3. Lastly participants who were 61 or older were 2.

### **4.2.3 Occupation**



In terms of occupation, 46 % of respondents were civil society workers. 30% of participants were academics. 15% of respondents were policymakers while 9% were community members.

### **4.3. Defining Economic Security**

Respondents were asked about their understanding regarding economic security. There were various themes that emerged from the responses.

#### **4.3.1 Making a Livelihood**

The findings indicated that economic security can be defined in terms of livelihood. Economic security is heavily reliant on livelihood opportunities. A stable and adequate livelihood comes from access to gainful employment or income-generating activities. This is consistent with the definition by UNDP (1994) which defines economic security as freedom from fear and freedom

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from want. When people have access to good jobs or viable livelihood options, their economic welfare improves (Tucker, 2018). Earning a livelihood also plays a crucial role in poverty reduction. Tucker (2018) further acknowledges that when individuals engage in sustainable income-generating activities, they can break the poverty cycle and enhance their economic security. This is a theme that emerged from the findings. Improved livelihood opportunities contribute to long-term financial stability and reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities to economic shocks (Patidar, 2019). In that regard respondents equated economic security to people being able to make livelihood. In relation to the matter, respondent 4 said;

*My understanding is that economic security can be defined in terms of livelihood. A stable and sustainable livelihood creates economic security. Livelihood activities provide individuals and households with the means to earn income, meet their basic needs, and support their families. Having a reliable source of income through employment or self-employment is crucial for achieving economic security.*

Respondent 15 made almost similar remarks. In his words;

*Economic security provides individuals with the stability and resources necessary to invest in improving their livelihoods. When people have economic security, they can afford to pursue various activities. Economic security allows people to have education and development of skills. They can also start businesses or invest in income-generating assets. Economic security can create a conducive environment for individuals to enhance their livelihoods, expand their earning potential, and improve their overall well-being.*

Respondent 8 made additional remarks regarding the matter. She made an emphasis of how policies influence economic security and livelihoods. In her words;

*Policies and interventions aimed at promoting livelihood and economic security often go hand in hand. I have noticed that policies that focus on job creation, skill development, and social protection can help enhance both livelihood opportunities and economic security for individuals and communities.*

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From the above, one gets an impression that there is a correlation between economic security and livelihood. The responses show that people being able to make a decent living is a key aspect of economic security. Maurya and Kamalvanshi (2017) concur that there is a correlation between economic security and livelihood.

### **4.3.2 Having a Social Safety Net**

Another theme that emerged is how economic security can be defined in terms of one's ability to overcome adversity. Patidar, (2019) asserts that safety nets help mitigate risks and uncertainties that can undermine economic security. They provide a safety cushion during times of unemployment, illness, disability, or other unforeseen circumstances that can result in income loss (Patidar, 2019). These safety nets are stable employment, savings and access to credit. Governments can also create safety nets or welfare programs to assist people when they face various challenges. Financial support or safety nets help individuals maintain a certain level of economic stability and protect them from falling into poverty (Patidar, 2019). In relation to this, Respondent 6 said;

*My interpretation of economic security is the ability to overcome hurdles that could occur economically or socially. This is economic safety and it helps to reduce vulnerability to poverty by having an adequate income. This safety also helps individuals and households stay above the poverty line during periods of unemployment, underemployment, or other economic hardships.*

This definition gives the impression that savings and financial abundance is related to economic security. This is in relation to the safety net theory. The safety net theory focuses on the provision of a supportive background to protect individuals and communities from the effects of adverse economic hardships.

In support of this viewpoint, respondent 8 said;

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*Economic security is being able to access essential services such as healthcare, education, and housing. By ensuring access to these services, the safety net contributes to economic security by reducing the financial burden associated with these necessities.*

These responses give the impression that respondents see a correlation between economic security and a social safety net.

### **4.3.3 Access to Education and Skills**

Another theme that emerged is how economic security can be defined in terms of one's access to education and skills. Education and skills development have a major impact on an individual's capability to work. Higher levels of education and relevant skills increase the chances of securing a stable and well-paying job (Velas et al., 2019). Therefore, access to quality education and skills training programs equips individuals with the necessary knowledge to meet the requirement of the job market (Velas et al., 2019). Education and skills also play a vital role in fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment. As stated earlier, Zimbabwe has been facing socioeconomic challenges. In that regard, learning entrepreneurship is beneficial. Brown (2017) asserts that access to education equips individuals with essential knowledge in areas such as business management, finance, marketing, and innovation.. In relation to the point, Respondent 5 said;

*Access to quality education and opportunities for ongoing skills development are vital for personal economic stability. Education equips individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to participate in the labour market effectively. It enhances employability, job security, and the potential for income growth.*

These points show that there is a linkage between one's educational status and their ability to earn a living. Respondent 12 made remarks about how education leads to improved social mobility. In his words;

*Education serves as a powerful tool for social mobility. It allows individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to improve their economic prospects. Education empowers*

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*individuals to break the cycle of poverty and achieve upward social and economic mobility.*

In that regard, economic security can also be defined as one's ability to achieve upward social mobility. As stated by Brown (2017) education contributes towards upward social mobility. Social mobility refers to the ability of individuals or groups to move up or down the social and economic ladder within a society or across generations (Brown, 2017). Based on these points, economic security can be defined as one's ability to break the cycle using skills.

### **4.4 The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Economic Security**

As a follow up question, respondents were asked about their perceptions on how civil society organizations play a role in community economic security.

#### **4.4.1 Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Communities**

There were sentiments among some respondents that NGOs give humanitarian assistance in order to alleviate poverty in communities. NGOs often provide direct assistance to meet the basic needs of individuals and communities, such as food, shelter, healthcare and clean water. By addressing immediate humanitarian needs, these organizations help create a foundation for economic security (Dietrich & Murdie, 2017). This means that when people's basic needs are met, they can have better capacity to focus on other aspects of their lives, such as education, skills development, and income generation. NGOs implement measures that support livelihood development and income-generating activities in communities (Dietrich & Murdie, 2017). As stated by Finn (2018) they provide vocational training, business support, microfinance services and access to markets. This helps to empower individuals to start or improve their own businesses. These organizations contribute to economic security by enabling individuals to generate sustainable income and become self-reliant. In relation to the matter, Respondent 8 said;

*NGOs focus on poverty alleviation. Such organizations in Bindura aim to lift individuals and communities out of poverty. They provide financial support, livelihood*

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*opportunities, and access to essential services, these organizations help individuals meet their basic needs and improve their living conditions.*

Finn (2018) concurs that civil society groups work to address social concerns such as poverty. In relation to this point, Respondent 15 said;

*NGOs often work towards empowering individuals and communities to take control of their own economic circumstances. They provide resources, training, and support to help individuals develop their skills, start businesses, and become economically self-reliant. By promoting economic empowerment and agency, these organizations uphold human dignity by enabling individuals to exercise their rights and make choices that shape their own lives.*

Respondent 6 shared that NGOs play a role in ensuring that people have dignity in relation to economic security. She said;

*NGOS assist individuals through income-generating projects. We have seen various projects such as poultry, sewing and horticulture. These projects enhance human dignity by ensuring that people have the resources necessary to live a life of dignity and self-worth.*

These responses show that NGOs play a pivotal role in ensuring that people live of dignity. Finn (2018) emphasizes the point that NGOs work to assist people with challenges that they face in their daily lives.

### **4.4.2 Advocacy Work to Lobby for Policies**

There were some respondents who shared how NGOs act as advocates in relation to economic security. NGOs often engage in advocacy and policy dialogue to promote policies that cater for the poor as well as social protection measures. They work to influence government policies related to economic security, poverty reduction, and social safety nets (Keane, 2019). Their role is to advocate for inclusive policies and social reforms. These organizations aim to create an conducive environment that supports economic security for all. Respondent 20 said;

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*NGOs are a voice to the voiceless. They communicate with the government and donors on behalf of vulnerable communities... They also advocate for policies which are perceived to be favourable for people that are in need.*

In relation to advocacy work, Respondent 8 said;

*NGOs advocate for the financial support and access to financial resources for vulnerable communities. They work to increase access to affordable credit and basic services especially for marginalized groups such as women, rural communities, and people living in poverty.*

This is important because most of these communities are sometimes underrepresented in their affairs. They may fail to get equal access to opportunities. Keane (2019) stresses the point that NGOs play a major role in advocating for marginalized groups. Respondent 9 raised the point that;

*NGOs engage in research and awareness-raising activities to highlight the economic challenges faced by vulnerable communities. They collect data, conduct studies, and sift information to raise public awareness. This is the data that they use to advocate for policy changes. In my observation, I have seen that NGOs use evidence-based research to demonstrate the impact of economic insecurity on vulnerable populations. In that regard, they advocate for solutions that address their specific needs.*

These factors show that civil society groups play an important role in terms of advocacy.

### **4.4.3 Service Provision to Support Livelihoods**

There were responses that showed how civil society organizations provide services that marginalized communities would not normally receive. NGOs support livelihoods and income generation through projects that provide grants, loans and support for small-scale enterprises, agricultural initiatives, and market linkages (Djan & Mersland, 2021). Through business development services and entrepreneurship support programs, NGOs foster self-reliance, create job opportunities, and promote local economic development, (Djan & Mersland, 2021).



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This enhances economic security by creating sustainable income opportunities. Respondent 9 asserts that;

*NGOs assist by providing small loans and financial services to individuals who lack access to traditional banking systems. These initiatives enable entrepreneurs and small business owners to start or expand their businesses, generate income, and improve their economic security.*

These are small loans that are aimed at improving the livelihood of individuals of communities. Respondent 8 shares that;

*Some NGOs offer vocational training programs that equip individuals with marketable skills. These initiatives provide training in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and technology, enabling individuals to secure better job opportunities and enhance their economic prospects. In Bindura, we have had workshops that teach people baking skills as well as how to keep poultry.*

Respondent 11 made an emphasis that;

*When people are incapacitated because of poverty, it is the role of civil society organizations to cater for them. This is especially applicable when the government does not have adequate resources to assist its people.*

This is in line with the point shared by Keane (2019) that NGOs complement the efforts of the government in assisting people.

### **4.4.4 Skills Training to Enhance Employability**

The respondents also indicated that NGOs help with poverty alleviation through the provision of training programs. These programs are meant to equip people with skills that they can use to earn a living. Skills training programs aim to enhance individuals' productivity and efficiency in their respective fields. Keane (2019) asserts that through these initiatives individuals become more proficient in their work, leading to increased productivity. Higher

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productivity often translates into higher wages, improved job opportunities, and overall economic well-being (Nandan & Kushwaha, 2017). Skills training programs aim to enhance individuals' productivity and efficiency in their respective fields. In relation to the point, Respondent 14 made these remarks;

*NGOs in our area design and implement skills development programs that aim to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills for employment or entrepreneurship. These programs include vocational training, technical skills development, entrepreneurship training and financial literacy programs. They help individuals enhance their employability and income-earning potential.*

The above response shows that it is important to ensure that local communities receive economic empowerment. The beneficiaries of these programs can use these skills in the future. In agreement with these ideas, Respondent 9 stated that;

*We have seen NGOs teaching people sewing, chicken rearing and baking. If people can master these skills, they can open viable businesses. Sometimes people do not open businesses because they do not have adequate knowledge, capital and skills.*

This is an important point because it highlights the major work that is undertaken by NGOs. As a follow up, Respondent 14 said;

*NGOs support aspiring entrepreneurs by providing training, mentorship, and access to resources. They offer entrepreneurship development programs that equip individuals with the skills to start and manage their own businesses. They also promote self-employment, job creation, and economic growth within communities.*

This point places emphasis on the importance of skills and resources to establish businesses.

### **4.5 Challenges Faced by Civil Societies in Dealing addressing Economic Security**

In continuation, participants were asked about some of the challenges that NGOs face in addressing societal problems.

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### 4.5.1 Inadequate Resources to Address Challenges

One recurring challenge among various participants is how NGOs face severe resource shortages to address social problems related to economic security. The findings indicated that NGOs in Zimbabwe often struggle with limited funding sources and inadequate financial resources. This shortage of funds hampers their ability to implement comprehensive programs aimed at enhancing economic security. Insufficient funding can limit the scale, scope, and duration of projects, making it challenging to reach a larger number of individuals and communities in need (Dube, 2021). Respondent 3 made this point;

*The availability of funding is often limited, and competition for resources can be intense. Many NGOs struggle to secure sustainable funding to cover their operational costs and program implementation. This limitation can hinder their ability to address problems effectively and sustain long-term interventions.*

This shows how NGOs sometimes face drawbacks in relation to funding. Respondent 3 made these follow up remarks;

*The problems are overwhelming to the extent that they exert pressure on NGOs.*

This point is important because it highlights how the economic situation in Zimbabwe has been so severe that majority of the population is in need of economic assistance. In literature Mlambo (2020) notes how Zimbabwe has one of the highest poverty rates in Africa, with an estimated 72% of the population living below the poverty line. This means that some of these challenges cannot be addressed by NGOs alone. Respondent 6 asserts that;

*NGOs often face uncertainties in funding cycles, especially when relying on project-based grants. This unpredictability can make it challenging for organizations to plan and implement programs over the long term. Limited or irregular funding can disrupt ongoing initiatives, lead to staff layoffs, and hinder the scaling up of successful interventions.*

This is another hindrance in terms of how these organizations operate.

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### 4.5.2 Lack of Enabling Environment in Zimbabwe

In general, respondents shared how the Zimbabwean government do not create a conducive environment for NGOs to operate in. Zimbabwe has implemented laws and regulations that impose strict requirements and oversight on NGOs. As stated by Kabonga (2023) the most notable of these is the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) and the Non-Governmental Organizations Bill of 2004. These laws grant significant powers to the government to regulate and monitor the activities of NGOs. That includes registration, reporting, and approval processes. Non-compliance with these regulations can result in fines, closure of organizations, or criminal charges (Ntini, 2022). Furthermore, harsh policies in Zimbabwe have resulted in the arbitrary denial of licenses and permits for NGOs (Ntini, 2022). Some organizations have experienced challenges in obtaining the necessary approvals to implement projects or access specific areas. This restricts their ability to reach vulnerable populations and provide much-needed services to enhance economic security. Respondent 12 asserts that;

*The government distrusts NGO work. This is seen by some of the restrictive policies that are introduced against these organizations. There is always scrutinization about programming, sources of funding how they engage with communities.*

Respondent 7 echoed almost the same statements and said;

*There is heavy political monitoring of NGO activity in an almost paranoid way. This stifles growth in the sector. It also scares away potential donors as they do not want to be subject to the rigorous measures that are put in place against NGOs.*

Respondent 9 asserts that;

*NGOs in Zimbabwe experience political interference. This includes surveillance, harassment, and intimidation. The government has been known to target NGOs that are critical of its policies or engaged in activities perceived as undermining its authority. This hostile environment can create a climate of fear and hinder NGOs' ability to operate independently and effectively.*

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These measures make it difficult for NGOs to assist with the economic security of communities. Kabonga (2023) asserts that NGOs face intimidation as they are operating in Zimbabwe.

### **4.6 Suggested Solutions to make CSOs Work More Efficient**

In light of the challenges that were cited, there was also a need to identify solutions that would help address them.

#### **4.6.1 Adjustment of Policies to Create a More Enabling Environment**

The findings show that the adjustment of certain policies can help alleviate some challenges. Respondents cited how the adjustment of policies can help NGOs to operate more efficiently. Undertaking a comprehensive review of the laws and regulations governing NGOs, such as the NGO Act and POSA would be beneficial. This can help identify areas where the regulatory framework can be simplified. Strengthening and protecting the fundamental rights of freedom of association, assembly and expression is essential (Ntini, 2022). Policy changes should aim to create an environment where individuals and organizations can freely form and operate NGOs without fear of reprisals or government interference (Ntini, 2022). This can involve amending or repealing laws that unduly restrict civic space and promoting a culture of respect for civil society's role in promoting economic security. Respondent 18 asserts that;

*The government can review and reform existing laws and regulations governing NGOs to ensure they are transparent, fair, and supportive of their work. This includes simplifying registration processes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and providing clarity on the rights and responsibilities of NGOs.*

Respondent 16 made an almost similar remark and said;

*To build trust and confidence, it is essential to ensure consistent and fair implementation of policies related to NGOs. The government can work towards transparent and accountable decision-making processes, ensuring that policies are*

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*applied uniformly and without bias. This includes addressing any instances of political interference or selective enforcement.*

Respondent 20 asserted that;

*The adjustment of policies allows for easy access to funding. The government can work to facilitate access to diverse and sustainable funding sources for NGOs. This can involve establishing mechanisms to streamline the process of accessing funding, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and providing tax incentives or exemptions for donations to NGOs. Encouraging public-private partnerships and collaboration with philanthropic organizations can also help broaden funding opportunities for NGOs.*

As cited in these remarks, the adjustment of policies could help improve how NGOs can address issues related to economic security.

### **4.6.2 Enhanced Collaboration with all Stakeholders**

There were suggestions that enhancing collaboration between the government, NGOs and other stakeholders. Involving NGOs and stakeholders in decision-making processes related to economic security policies and programs is essential. Governments should seek input from NGOs and stakeholders during policy formulation, implementation and evaluation stages (Kabonga, 2023). This participatory approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to more inclusive and effective solutions. Fostering trust and mutual respect between the government, NGOs, and stakeholders is essential for effective collaboration. Governments should create an enabling environment that values the contributions of NGOs and stakeholders, respects their independence, and protects their rights (Kabonga, 2023). Similarly, NGOs should engage constructively with the government, recognizing their role as partners in achieving common goals.

Respondent 8 asserts that

*Establishing mechanisms for regular dialogue and collaboration between the government and NGOs can foster mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation. This*

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*can involve creating platforms for consultation, involving NGOs in the policy-making process, and seeking their input on issues related to social development and human rights. Such collaborations can help align the efforts of NGOs with national priorities and create a more inclusive and participatory decision-making process.*

These remarks show that there is a need for cooperation to address challenges related to economic security. Respondent 11 asserts that;

*NGOs often have direct access to marginalized communities and vulnerable populations. They work closely with these communities, understand their needs, and build trust and relationships with them. By collaborating with NGOs, the government can ensure that its policies and programs are informed by the realities on the ground and are responsive to the specific needs of the communities. NGOs can also facilitate community participation and engagement, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of the affected populations are considered in decision-making processes.*

These factors emphasize how collaboration and cooperation could help improve how NGOs operate. Nyandoro (2022) asserts that there is a need for enhanced stakeholder participation.

### **4.6.3 Offering More Training Programs to Communities**

In light of the challenges that were cited, some respondents suggested that NGOs need to emphasize more on training programs as a means to address poverty and economic insecurity. NGOs can collaborate with vocational training institutes to provide technical skills training programs aligned with the needs of the job market. By offering training in trades such as construction, hospitality, information technology, or healthcare, NGOs can enhance individuals' employability and help them secure sustainable jobs (Nandan & Kushwaha, 2017). This, in turn, strengthens economic security by providing individuals with stable incomes and opportunities for career advancement. NGOs can offer training programs targeted at supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises. These programs can focus on areas like business management, marketing strategies, product development, and access to markets. By

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strengthening the capacity of SMEs, NGOs contribute to economic growth, employment generation, and poverty reduction (Nandan & Kushwaha, 2017). Respondent 3 said;

*Skills training equips individuals with the knowledge and abilities needed to secure gainful employment. By offering more skills training skills, they can better assist local communities. The skills need to be relevant to the local job market. NGOs can enhance the employability of individuals living in poverty. This, in turn, increases their chances of finding stable jobs and improving their income levels.*

This response shows that skills training is a recurring theme. In that regard, offering more training can help address poverty. Respondent 4 advocates for a more holistic approach. In her words;

*Skills training should be seen as part of a broader poverty alleviation strategy. NGOs can combine skills training programs with other support services such as healthcare, microfinance, and social empowerment initiatives. This holistic approach addresses multiple dimensions of poverty and helps individuals build a foundation for sustained economic security.*

This holistic approach can be helpful. This is because it addresses poverty in all its aspects.

### **4.7 Chapter Summary**

The findings show that there is a correlation between economic security and livelihood. Economic security can also be explained as the ability to have a social safety net. NGOs play a major role in ensuring community economic security. They provide basic necessities to communities. They also provide skills training which equips communities with capabilities that they can use. Civil society groups face various hurdles as they are operating in Zimbabwe. One of the primary challenges is the critical working environment that they work in. The government is suspicious of NGO operations. The organizations also face acute resource shortages. In that regard, there is a need for increased stakeholder participation. There is also a need to introduce policies that help address some of the challenges that NGOs face. Some



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respondents also suggested that an increased emphasis on skills training could help empower local communities more.

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## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter aims to summarize the key findings from the research study and draw conclusions based on the research questions. It will also outline recommendations stemming from the findings. The study sought to investigate perspectives on the role of civil society organizations in supporting community economic security in Bindura District, Zimbabwe. Through interviews with stakeholders, insights were gained regarding definitions of economic security, the contributions of NGOs, and challenges faced in their work. The findings provided useful information to address each of the research questions. Conclusions will be presented on the role of CSOs, common barriers encountered, and ways their impact could be enhanced. In addition to summarizing the study, this chapter reflects on the implications of the results. Recommendations are put forth regarding adjustments to policy environment, improved collaboration, and emphasis on skills training. It is hoped these provide a foundation for strengthening the efforts of NGOs in promoting local economic well-being.

### **5.1 Summary**

Chapter 1 gave introductory remarks to the study. The objectives of the study were to investigate the role of civil societies in maintaining economic security, to identify some of barriers that civil societies face in addressing issues related to economic security and to recommend strategies that ensure the effective participation of civil societies in issues related to economic security. The statement of the problem shows that there are various socioeconomic challenges in Zimbabwe and civil society groups could help address them.

Chapter 2 gave a literature review and theoretical frameworks for the study. The human security framework defines economic security as the ability of individuals to access social services, as well as the ability to participate in economic activities and to make choices that affect one's well-being. It is also the ability of individuals, households, and communities to meet their basic economic needs and maintain a decent standard of living. The safety net theory focuses on the provision of a supportive background to protect individuals and communities

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from the effects of adverse economic hardships. Zimbabwe has one of the highest poverty rates in Africa, with an estimated 72% of the population living below the poverty line. Zimbabwe's unemployment rate is estimated to be around 90%, with many people struggling to find formal employment. Therefore, the study aimed to investigate about how civil society groups could help address some of these challenges.

Chapter 3 gave an overview of the methodology that was used in the study. The study was conducted using the case study research design. It was conducted in Bindura District, Mashonaland Central Zimbabwe with DAPP Hope Bindura as the focus of the study. This was done so that the researcher could do an in-depth probe of the research questions. The researcher used the interpretive paradigm. This paradigm helped to explain the subjective experiences of respondents. The researcher used qualitative research methods in conducting the research. Qualitative research methods focus on collecting and analyzing non-numerical data. A sample of 20 respondents was selected. The respondents included employees and management from DAPP Hope Bindura, academics and people that have received assistance from the organization. In-depth interviews were used in the collection of data.

Chapter 4 presented discussed and analysed the findings. There are various themes that emerged in the findings and they shall be discussed further in the conclusions of the study.

### **5.2 Conclusions**

In light of the research questions, the following conclusions were made from the findings;

#### **5.2.1 What is the role of civil society organizations in economic security?**

The findings show that NGOS give humanitarian assistance to individuals in need. Civil society groups work to address social concerns such as poverty. NGOs act as advocates in relation to economic security. They advocate for policies that are meant to assist vulnerable people, they also raise awareness about particular social challenges. The findings also show that civil society organizations provide services that marginalized communities would not normally receive. They assist communities with income generating projects and business loans. They also

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provide educations and vocational training courses to help people to make a livelihood. These activities are helpful in achieving economic security.

### **5.2.2 What are some of the barriers that civil societies face in helping communities to achieve economic security?**

The findings also show that there are various challenges that are being encountered by civil society groups. One recurring challenge among various participants is how NGOs face severe resource shortages to social problems related to economic security. As Zimbabwe has one of the highest poverty rates in Africa, it is difficult for NGOs to effectively address challenges. The findings also show that the Zimbabwean government does not create a conducive environment for NGOs to operate in. The government is strict against NGO operations in a way that limits their effectiveness.

### **5.2.3 How can civil societies enhance their role in a way that promotes economic security?**

As various challenges have been cited, there is a need to suggest solutions that will help address the concerns. The findings show that there is a need for strict policies to be adjusted so that NGOs can operate more effectively. There is need for an enabling environment for these organizations. There is also a need for enhanced collaboration among stakeholders. NGOs can partner with the business community, community leaders and policymakers in addressing concerns related to economic security. Civil society groups should also place an emphasis on training programs so that individuals can be equipped with skills that they can use in life and in business.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

The following recommendations have been suggested;

- ❖ Zimbabwe needs to adjust its NGO policies. The strict policies hinder how they can do their work. If an enabling environment is created, there will be open discussions about economic challenges that are being faced in communities.

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- ❖ The adjustment of policies will also allow civil society groups to raise funds more easily. Due to the current restrictions, it is sometimes difficult for them to raise adequate funds for their programs.
- ❖ Civil society groups need to emphasize more on offering training programs to communities. These programs will help to equip people with skills that they can use in business. They can learn various trades based on these courses.
- ❖ Lastly, there is a need for enhances collaboration among various stakeholders. They all need to combine so that they can address issues related to economic security.

### **5.4 Recommendations for Further Study**

- ❖ An in-depth study on the economic security of vulnerable communities.
- ❖ An analysis of Zimbabwe's NGO policies.

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## **Appendix 1: Permission Letter**

**CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC SECURITY IN  
ZIMBABWE.CASE STUDY OF DAPP HOPE HUMANA BINDURA**

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES



DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR  
BINDURA DISTRICT OFFICE

16 JAN 2024

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BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

Date: 22/11/23

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: REQUEST TO UNDER TAKE RESEARCH PROJECT IN YOUR  
ORGANISATION/AREA

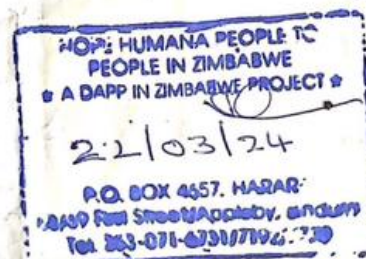


This serves to introduce the bearer Shantel T Chipunza, Student  
Registration Number B200607B who is a HBSc Peace and  
Governance student at Bindura University of Science Education and is carrying out  
a research project in your area.

Your usual cooperation and assistance is therefore being sought.

Yours faithfully

D. Makwerere (Dr)  
CHAIRPERSON - PEACE AND GOVERNANCE



# **CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE.CASE STUDY OF DAPP HOPE HUMANA BINDURA**

## **Appendix 2: Interview Guide**

Data collection tool 1: Civil Society Leaders, Academics, And Other Stakeholders Related to Civil Society Work

### **INTERVIEW GUIDE**

Respondent number: .....

Occupation .....Sex.....

Date.....

Time.....

Place .....

### **Preamble**

My name is Shantel Thabani Chipunza, I am a student at Bindura University of Education (BUSE) studying for a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Peace and Governance Studies. To fulfil my studies, I'm writing a research paper on economic security. The tile of my paper is Civil Society Participation in Economic Security. Case of DAPP Hope Humana Bindura.

In order to achieve my studies, I will interview my key informants. In this category, civil society leaders, academics, and other stakeholders related to civil society work will be interviewed

The information obtained during this interview will be obtained for academic purposes. The researcher will guarantee the anonymity and security of the participants. The research follows acceptable research ethics. As such, the identity of the interviewee and the information provided will not be shared with anyone.

**CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC SECURITY IN  
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Your cooperation will be appreciated as an integral part of the study.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE.CASE STUDY OF DAPP HOPE HUMANA BINDURA**

1. What is your understanding of economic security?
2. How does your occupation relate to civil society work?
3. In your understanding, what is the role of civil society organizations in ensuring economic security?
4. What are some of the challenges that civil societies face in addressing issues related to economic security?
5. How can civil society groups better undertake their role in ensuring economic security?